

From: Jon Pfaff
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern, ladies and gentlemen:

Living in Seattle, I have been bombarded with the superficial news reports of Microsoft monopolistic tendencies. These reports do not even come close to the actual nefarious activities to which Microsoft people resorted to squash competitors. The tactics can only be called restraint of trade.

There are widely circulated, via the net, stories of loading the Windows operating system with 'poison code' to render useless the application products of other companies. People I know who worked at Microsoft as temps, can relate incredible tales of directives from top management to sabotage the ability to use with Windows, any product which might compete with Microsoft Word and Excel.

Microsoft management has consistently bragged about their innovations. They have not innovated anything! They buy, purloin and out and out steal code from other products, then use their huge economic clout to push Microsoft product on users. They have purchased potential competitors and either buried that technology, or turned it into a Windows/Microsoft application which sucked.

To punish Microsoft by 'forcing them' to provide hardware and software to schools is to put the fox into the hen house. It gives them the opportunity to monopolize one area of computer use they have never been able to crack. One would have to wonder how much the person who instituted such a 'penalty' was getting paid by Microsoft.

If the computers they were required to donate were made by Apple, or used either the Mac or Linux OS, then Microsoft would still be able to donate 'Office for the Mac', which, incidentally, is the best piece of non-buggy software Microsoft has ever marketed.

To sum up: Microsoft is predatory, and similar to a sex offender, it has proven it will repeat and continue to be predatory unless stopped by a stronger power; a company so steeped in monopolistic practices, it no longer deserves to exist as a whole; and to give them yet another heretofore unavailable market as a form of 'punishment' would be the height of uninformed stupidity or insider payoff.

I urge the Department of Justice, and the presiding judge, to make it abundantly clear that these monopolistic, predatory practices will not be tolerated by punishing Microsoft with harsh consequences.

I would prefer to see the company split into two separate entities.

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